



Board of Supervisors

Santa Cruz County

MANUEL RUIZ
District 1

RUDY MOLERA
District 2

BRUCE BRACKER
District 3

TO: Katie Hobbs, Arizona Secretary of State
FROM: Alma Schultz, County Elections Official
RE: Hand Count Report – General Election – November 8, 2022
DATE: November 17, 2022

Pursuant to A.R.S. §16-602(B), Santa Cruz County conducted a Hand Count for the November 8, 2022 General Election.

On Thursday, November 3, 2022, the Elections Official conducted a random drawing of lots for early ballot batches to be counted during the Hand Count Audit. The Elections Official conservatively estimated the total number of early ballots at 15,000. Under Arizona law, the hand count audit of early ballots needed to include at least 1% of early ballots cast in Santa Cruz County or 150 ballots based on the estimate. Four batches of early ballots, two for each tabulation machine, were counted for a total Hand Count Audit of early ballots of 353. According to the final unofficial results, number of early ballots tabulated for the General Election was 10,083, so the actual percentage of early ballots hand counted was 3.5%.

The drawing for Hand Count Audit early ballot batches was conducted by lot for each tabulation machine. The Early Board members assisted Elections staff in selecting by lot batch numbers between 1 and 171. The range of the lot numbers was based on the number of early ballot batches that had been received from the Records Office after their verification process. Prior to drawing the lots with the assistance of the Early Board members, a coin toss determined which party (democrat or republican) would draw the first lot. Subsequent lots were drawn alternatively by Early Board members according to party affiliation. The following batches were selected:

- Tabulation Machine A– Batches 65 and 71
- Tabulation Machine B– Batches 40 and 165¹

After the batch numbers were selected, the Elections Official began processing early ballot batches. The four selected ballot batches were sequestered, two for each machine, as selected and reported above.

On Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 3 pm, representatives from the Santa Cruz County Democratic and Republican Parties met to select the Election Day Vote Center batches for the hand count. The two polling locations randomly selected for the hand count were:

- VC 2 – VFW
- VC 4 – Nogales Woman's Club

The Party Chairs also selected the races to be counted for those categories with more than one race, i.e. Statewide Candidate, Federal (Senate or House of Representatives), State legislature (Senate or House) and Statewide Ballot Measure (Propositions). The races selected at random by the Party Chairs for these categories to be counted, were:

- Statewide Candidate Corporation Commission

¹ The original batch number selected was 116, but this batch was mislabeled (duplicate of an earlier batch number) by the Early Ballot Board so Elections staff selected the next batch in the stack for sequestering, i.e., 165. NOTE: Batches do not arrive at the tabulation center in sequential order.

- Statewide Ballot Measure Proposition 128
- Federal Candidate U.S. Senate
- State Legislative State Representative, District 21

Conducting the Hand Count

The Hand Count boards met on Nov. 14 & 15, 2022. There were two boards made up of three members; one board had one Democrat, one Republican and one Independent and the other board had two Republicans and one Democrat. Each board had an alternate available should the need arise. The stacking method was used for counting.

The batches of early ballots were tabulated on two different machines; therefore, the hand count provides information on the tabulation accuracy of each machine. For each machine, the hand count results matched the tabulated results; there were 0 (zero) discrepancies. The results are shown in the tables below.

TABULATION MACHINE A	Early Ballot Batch 65		Early Ballot Batch 71	
Race	Machine Count	Hand Count	Machine Count	Hand Count
Statewide Candidate – Corp. Comm.				
Thompson, Kevin	13	13	16	16
Myers, Nicholas “Nick”	9	9	13	13
Kennedy, Sandra	40	40	73	73
Kuby, Lauren	39	39	50	50
Statewide Ballot Measure – Prop. 128				
No	46	46	58	58
Yes	7	7	30	30
Federal Candidate – U.S. Senate				
Kelly, Mark	42	42	86	86
Masters, Blake	11	11	13	13
Victor, Marc	0	0	1	1
State Legislative – Rep. LD 21				
McEwen, Deborah	10	10	11	11
Hernandez, Consuelo	37	37	64	64
Stahl Hamilton, Stephanie	35	35	42	42
Kennedy, Damian	9	9	13	13
TABULATION MACHINE B	Early Ballot Batch 40		Early Ballot Batch 165	
Race	Machine Count	Hand Count	Machine Count	Hand Count
Statewide Candidate – Corp. Comm.				
Thompson, Kevin	29	29	25	25
Myers, Nicholas “Nick”	31	31	27	27
Kennedy, Sandra	64	64	66	66
Kuby, Lauren	56	56	60	60
Statewide Ballot Measure – Prop. 128				
No	66	66	69	69
Yes	30	30	23	23
Federal Candidate – U.S. Senate				
Kelly, Mark	69	69	74	74
Masters, Blake	28	28	21	21
Victor, Marc	2	2	5	5

TABULATION MACHINE B, CON'T.	Early Ballot Batch 40, con't.		Early Ballot Batch 165, con't.	
Race	Machine Count	Hand Count	Machine Count	Hand Count
State Legislative – Rep. LD 21				
McEwen, Deborah	21	21	23	23
Hernandez, Consuelo	44	44	59	59
Stahl Hamilton, Stephanie	38	38	61	61
Kennedy, Damian	21	21	18	18

As stated above, the Election Day ballots for two (2) Vote Centers were hand counted. Vote Center 4 had no discrepancies between the hand count and the machine tabulation. Vote Center 2 had five (5) discrepancies, all of which were within the designated margins (1% or 3 votes whichever is greater) set by the Vote Count Verification Committee for polling places. The results are shown in the tables below.

VOTE CENTERS	Vote Center 2 - VFW		Vote Center 4 – Nogales Woman's Club	
Race	Machine Count	Hand Count	Machine Count	Hand Count
Statewide Candidate – Corp. Comm.				
Thompson, Kevin	115	115	90	90
Myers, Nicholas "Nick"	110	110	99	99
Kennedy, Sandra	275 ²	277	71	71
Kuby, Lauren	217 ³	218	57	57
Statewide Ballot Measure – Prop. 128				
No	224 ⁴	226	105	105
Yes	181 ⁵	179	73	73
Federal Candidate – U.S. Senate				
Kelly, Mark	295	295	84	84
Masters, Blake	134	134	101	101
Victor, Marc	17	17	3	3
State Legislative – Rep. LD 21				
McEwen, Deborah	107	107	95	95
Hernandez, Consuelo	294	294	72	72
Stahl Hamilton, Stephanie	190 ⁶	191	56	56
Kennedy, Damian	116	116	100	100

The percent margin is calculated as follows: $\text{Margin} = \text{Absolute Difference} \div \text{Machine Count} \times 100$. In all cases except one, the margin is less than 1%. In one case the margin is 1.1%, but still less than the 3 votes set by the Vote Verification Committee.

The Election Official and Hand Count Board members concurred that the likely cause of discrepancies where the hand count exceeded the machine count was improperly marked ballot races (i.e., use of checks, slashes or misplaced markings that the machine would not detect).

² Discrepancy = $2/275 \times 100 = <1\%$

³ Discrepancy = $1/217 \times 100 = <1\%$

⁴ Discrepancy = $2/224 \times 100 = <1\%$

⁵ Discrepancy = $2/181 \times 100 = 1.1\%$

⁶ Discrepancy = $1/190 \times 100 = <1\%$